Typical 'Middle American' Still Doesn't Know How He Will Vote

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A 43-year-old Chicago area credit manager, picked as a typical "middle American" for a study of voting behavior, says he still doesn't know how he will vote after a rare, inside view of Sen. George McGovern's presidential campaign.

"To be frank," Richard J. Johnson said in an interview, "I'm still undecided at this point whether he'll get my vote in November." But he said his view of McGovern has gone up from a week of close watching.

Johnson was picked by the Public Broadcasting Corp.'s National Public Affairs Center for Television (PACT) for a year-long study. He was first interviewed in January, when he described himself as a Democrat who might vote in November for President Nixon.

"I feel that he's done a commendable job," Johnson said at the time. But he added that if Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts won the Democratic nomination, he'd certainly vote for him.

Married and the father of four, Johnson lives in Rolling Meadows, Ill., drives 21 miles each day to his job with National Steel Service Center Inc. in Evanston and is concerned that his income of about $15,000, including his wife's part-time job, won't be enough to pay for his children's college education.

Last week, he arrived in Los Angeles to see the McGovern campaign first hand. Since Wednesdey, he has seen the senator campaign there, in San Diego; in Dallas and Houston, Tex.; in Peoria and Rockford, Ill.; in Superior, Wis.; and in Des Moines, Iowa.

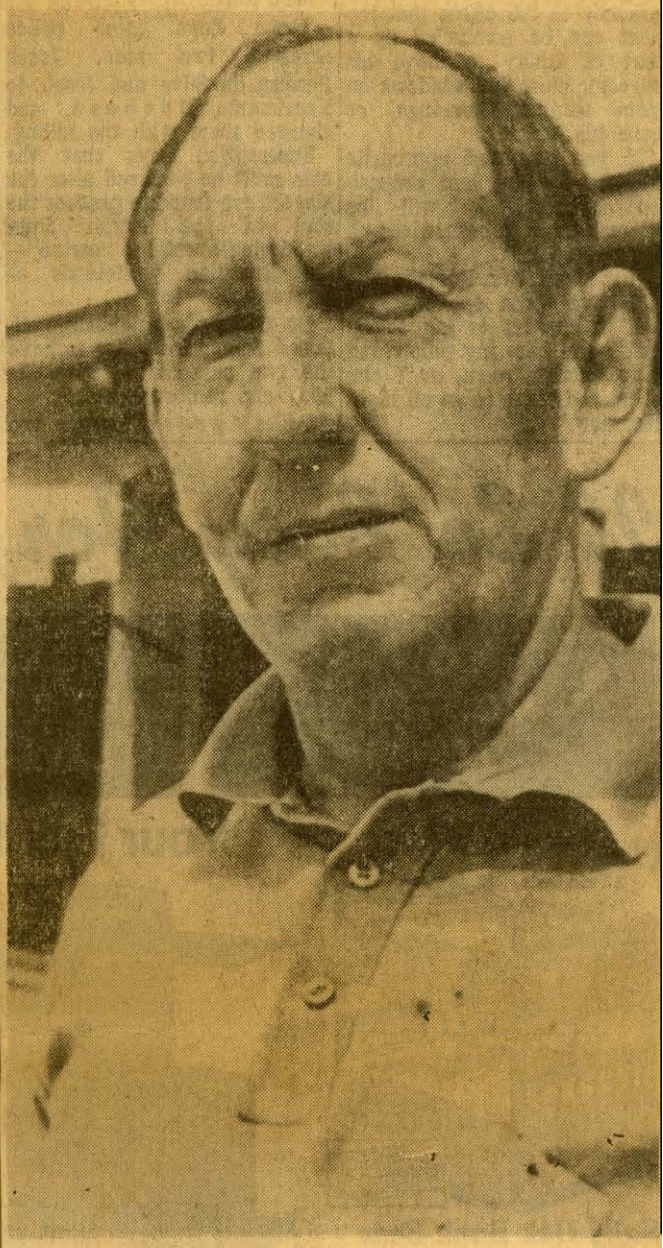
"It's been strenuous," Johnson conceded. "I'm tired at night, and I'm ready for the old sack, but what an experience."

As for McGovern, Johnson said his first conclusion was that "the candidate has to be an extraordinary human being to endure the rigors of this." He likes a lot of what McGovern has said, finds him "a very congenial, honest and religious man" but still has doubts.

"I would like to see him a little more dynamic in his speeches, in his presentations," Johnson said. He feels Nixon has those qualities, plus the experience of four years in office and adds that "in the last year, there has been improvement i this country economy-wise."

Another thing that bother Johnson about McGovern is feeling "there is a lot of in decision here." He is upset a McGovern's decision to dro Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton as hi running mate after disclosur of the Missouri senator's med cal history.

On Sept. 20, public broad casting stations will carry a fo lowup program to the earlie show, this one on Johnson' week with the McGovern cam paign.



'Middle American'

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